

VOTES PASSED BY THE FINANCE COMMITTEE.—The Acting Colonial Secretary laid upon the table the Report of the Finance Committee, (No. 1 of 1887), on the following votes recommended therein, and moved that the items be passed:—

C.S.O.
1716 of 1886. Telegraph line to connect the Observatory with the Time-Ball Tower,\$300.00
C. O. Desp.
66 of 1886. Increase to Salary of Inspector of Schools,.....\$600.00

The Treasurer seconded.

Question—put and passed.

PAPERS.—The Acting Colonial Secretary, by direction of His Excellency the Officer Administering the Government, laid upon the table the following papers:—

1. Correspondence respecting the proposal of the Legislative Council for making public the Proceedings of the Finance Committee, (No. $\frac{4}{87}$).
2. The Postmaster General's Report for 1886, (No. $\frac{7}{87}$).

BILL ENTITLED AN ORDINANCE FOR PROMOTING THE REVISION OF THE STATUTE LAW BY REPEALING CERTAIN ENACTMENTS WHICH HAVE CEASED TO BE IN FORCE OR HAVE BECOME UNNECESSARY.—On the motion of the Acting Attorney General, seconded by the Acting Colonial Secretary, this Bill was read a first time.

BILL ENTITLED AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE LAW RESPECTING DEFAMATORY WORDS AND LIBEL.—On the motion of the Acting Attorney General, seconded by the Acting Colonial Secretary, this Bill was read a first time.

BILL ENTITLED THE POST OFFICE ORDINANCE, 1886.—The Treasurer moved that the Standing Orders be suspended, and that the Council go into Committee on this Bill by reading the marginal notes of it only, so far as the clauses which contained no new matter were concerned, the other clauses being read *in extenso*.

The Acting Colonial Secretary, seconded.

Question—put and passed.

The Council then went into Committee on the Bill.

Bill reported with amendments.

The Treasurer then gave notice that at the next Meeting of Council he would move the third reading of this Bill.

BILL ENTITLED AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE PROMISSORY OATHS ORDINANCE, 1869.—On the motion of the Acting Attorney General, seconded by the Acting Colonial Secretary, the Council went into Committee on this Bill.

Bill reported without amendment.

The Acting Attorney General gave notice that at the next meeting of Council he would move the third reading of this Bill.

NEW BILLS.—The Acting Attorney General gave notice that at the next Meeting of Council, he would move the first reading of the following Bills:—

- (a.) *An Ordinance for the Suppression of the Triad Society and other Secret Societies and for the Punishment of the Members thereof.*
- (b.) *An Ordinance to regulate the carrying and possession of arms.*
- (c.) *An Ordinance for the more effective Prevention of Crimes.*

POSTPONEMENT OF THE OTHER ORDER OF THE DAY.—The Acting Attorney General moved that the other Order of the Day be postponed.

Question—put and passed.

ADJOURNMENT.—The Council was then adjourned to Friday, the 21st instant, at 4 P.M.

W. H. MARSH,
Administering the Government.

Read and confirmed, this 21st day of January, 1887.

ARATHOON SETH,
Clerk of Councils.

GOVERNMENT NOTIFICATION.—No. 22.

The following Bills, which were read a first time at a Meeting of the Legislative Council held yesterday, are published for general information.

ARATHOON SETH,
Clerk of Councils.

Council Chamber, Hongkong, 22nd January, 1887.

A BILL

ENTITLED

An Ordinance for the Suppression of the Triad Society and other Secret Societies and for the Punishment of the Members thereof.

BE it enacted by the Governor of Hongkong, with the advice of the Legislative Council thereof, as follows:—

1. This Ordinance may be cited as *The Triad and Secret Societies Ordinance, 1887.*

2. The Triad Society and other Secret Societies by whatever name known, are hereby declared to be unlawful societies, and any person acting as manager or office bearer, or assisting in any way in the conduct of the business of, or in managing the affairs of any such unlawful societies shall be guilty of a misdemeanour and shall be liable upon conviction in the Supreme Court to a fine not exceeding one thousand dollars, or to imprisonment for any period not exceeding twelve months with or without hard labour, or to both fine and imprisonment; and any person who is a member of, or who attends and takes part in any meeting of any such unlawful society, or who subscribes or pays money, or gives aid or procures from others subscriptions, money or aid, for or towards the maintenance of any such unlawful society shall be liable upon conviction in the Supreme Court to a fine not exceeding five hundred dollars, or to imprisonment for any period not exceeding six months with or without hard labour, or to both fine and imprisonment.

3. All meetings of the said Societies are hereby declared to be unlawful and prohibited accordingly.

4. It shall be lawful for any Magistrate or Justice of the Peace to enter with or without assistance or to order any Police Officer or other person, in his presence, or by warrant under his hand and seal to enter with or without assistance, using force in either case if necessary, into any dwelling-house or other building, or into any place in which he may have reasonable ground to believe that a meeting of any society declared by this Ordinance to be unlawful is being held, contrary to the provisions of this Ordinance, or that five or more persons belonging to any such illegal society are unlawfully assembled, and to arrest or cause to be arrested all persons found at any such meeting or assembly, and to search the premises and seize or cause to be seized all books, papers, documents, flags, insignia, arms and other articles which he may have reasonable cause to believe to belong to any Society, or to be in any way connected with the purposes of the meeting or assembly.

5. All persons so arrested and all articles so seized may be detained in custody till they can conveniently be brought before a Magistrate, where they shall be dealt with according to law.

6. If, at any such meeting or assembly, any oath, or any engagement, obligation, or promise relating to the objects of any unlawful society be administered to or tendered to any person, or if any form of oath be found or if copies of any Rules or Regulations or engagements, obligations or promises, or lists or names of members of any society, or if any insignia, banners, writings, paintings, drawings or other articles relating or belonging to any unlawful society be found, the finding thereof or the fact of an oath or an engagement, obligation, or promise having been administered or tendered at the meeting or assembly, shall be *prima facie* evidence that the meeting or assembly was an unlawful assembly.

7. Any person attending an unlawful assembly as defined in this Ordinance knowing that the assembly was an unlawful assembly, and any person continuing to attend such an assembly after having been warned by any Magistrate, Justice of the Peace, or Police Officer that the assembly is an unlawful assembly, shall be liable on conviction in the Supreme Court to a penalty not exceeding one hundred dollars, or to imprisonment with or without hard labour for any period not exceeding six months, or to both.

8. Any person knowingly allowing an unlawful assembly, or a meeting or assembly contrary to the provisions of this Ordinance, to be held in any house, building, or place belonging to or occupied by him or over which he has control, shall be liable on conviction in the Supreme Court

Penalty for managers.

Penalty for members.

Meetings unlawful.

Magistrate, &c., may enter house, &c., where unlawful meeting held. (Straits Settlement Ord. 19 of 1869, s. 8.)

And may arrest and seize persons and property found.

Persons and property so seized to be taken before Magistrate. (Straits Settlements Ord. 19 of 1869, s. 9.)

What to be deemed *prima facie* evidence of unlawful assembly. (Straits Settlement Ord. 19 of 1869, s. 10.)

Penalty for attending unlawful assembly. (Straits Settlement Ord. 19 of 1869, s. 11.)

Persons allowing unlawful assembly in their premises. (Straits Settlement Ord. 19 of 1869, s. 12.)

Penalty

to a penalty not exceeding five hundred dollars or to six months' imprisonment with or without hard labour, or to both.

Members of a society.
(Straits Settlement Ord. 19 of 1869, s. 25.)

9.—The words *Member of a Society* shall denote a person who having been admitted therein according to the Rules and Regulations thereof, shall have paid an entrance fee or a subscription, or shall have attended two or more meetings of the Society as a member, or shall have signed the roll or list of members of the society, or otherwise shall have become recognised as a member by the Rules and Regulations of the Society, and shall not have resigned or withdrawn from or been expelled from the Society, and shall include all managers and office bearers.

Presumptive proof of membership.
(Straits Settlement Ord. 4 of 1882, s. 5.)

10. When any of the banners, insignia, or writings of any society declared by this Ordinance to be unlawful are found in the possession, custody, or control of any person, it shall be presumed, till the contrary is shown by such person, that he is a member of such unlawful society.

Masonic Lodges excluded.

11. This Ordinance shall not apply to any duly constituted Masonic Lodge.

Persons joined in ignorance, &c.

12. No person shall be considered as coming within the provisions or intent of this Ordinance who shall have joined the Triad or any other Secret Society in ignorance of their designs or under the influence of terror.

Repeal.

13. Ordinances 1 and 12 of 1845 are hereby repealed.

A BILL

ENTITLED

An Ordinance to regulate the carrying and possession of arms.

BE it enacted by the Governor of Hongkong, with the advice of the Legislative Council thereof, as follows:—

1. This Ordinance may be cited as *The Arms Ordinance, 1887.*

Ordinance 22 of 1884, sec. 2.

2. In this Ordinance the expression *arms* includes any description of fire-arms, also any sword, cutlass, spear, pike, bayonet, dagger, or other deadly weapon, also any part of any arms as so defined.

Penalty for being found carrying deadly weapons.
[Ordinance 14 of 1870, sec. 18 altered.]

3. Every person who shall without reasonable excuse, the proof of which shall lie upon him, carry any arms about him, whether by night or day, shall be liable on Summary Conviction thereof, to a fine not exceeding one hundred dollars, or to imprisonment with or without hard labour for any period not exceeding six months, and such weapon shall be forfeited to the Crown.

Governor may grant licence to carry arms.
[Ordinance 22 of 1884, sec. 3.]

4. The Governor in Council may from time to time at discretion grant licences to carry arms subject to such conditions to be specified in the licence as to the Governor in Council may seem fit, and may from time to time at discretion revoke any such licence.

Proviso.

Provided that this section shall not prevent the owner of any trading or fishing junk who has given security to the Harbour Master under section 38 of Ordinance 8 of 1879 from having without licence on board of his junk such arms as are reasonably necessary for the protection of such junk on the high seas.

Police may arrest without warrant any person carrying arms.
[Ordinance 22 of 1884, sec. 4.]

5. Any person carrying or reasonably suspected of carrying any arms in contravention of this Ordinance may be arrested without warrant by any Police Officer, and conveyed as soon as reasonably can be, before a Magistrate in order to his being dealt with according to law.

Unlawfully possessing offensive weapons, &c.
[Ordinance 14 of 1845, sec. 12.]

6. Every person who shall have in his possession any spear, bludgeon, or other offensive weapon or any crowbar, picklock, skeleton key, or other instrument fit for unlawful purposes, who shall be unable to give satisfactory account of his possession thereof, shall be liable to a penalty not exceeding one hundred dollars, or in the discretion of the Presiding Magistrate to be imprisoned for any term not exceeding one month.

No person to keep in any house, store, &c., more than fifteen lbs. of gunpowder.
[Sub-sec. 10, sec. 37 of 8 of 1879.]

7. It shall not be lawful for any person, without the permission in writing of the Governor, to keep for any time however short within any house, store, godown, or other place on land, a larger quantity of gunpowder than fifteen pounds. Every person contravening against this section shall on Summary Conviction thereof be liable to a penalty not exceeding one hundred dollars or to imprisonment not exceeding one month.

8. All importers of, and dealers in arms shall be bound to register their names and places of business at the Central Police Station, and shall take out a licence, for which an annual sum of ten dollars shall be charged; and all importers of, or dealers in arms not registering their names and taking out such licence shall be liable, on summary conviction thereof, to a fine not exceeding one hundred dollars, or to imprisonment not exceeding one month.

Importers or dealers in arms to register themselves.

9. All importers of, and dealers in arms shall be bound on or before the Sixth of every month to furnish to the Captain Superintendent of Police a statement of all arms imported or bought by them during the previous month.

All importers of or dealers in arms to furnish return every month.

10. Any person making a false return of arms imported or bought, shall on conviction thereof before a Magistrate be liable to a fine not exceeding fifty dollars or to imprisonment not exceeding ten days.

Penalty for making false return.

11. All importers of, and dealers in arms failing or refusing to make such return shall be deemed to be in possession of all arms found in their house, store or godown contrary to the provisions of this Ordinance, and shall be liable on Summary Conviction thereof to a fine not exceeding one hundred dollars or to imprisonment not exceeding one month.

Penalty for refusing to make such return.

12. Upon the trial of any information for furnishing such false return the Magistrate may if he thinks fit, issue a warrant to search any house, store or place where such arms are alleged to be kept or stored, and any Police officer to whom the said warrant is directed may with or without assistance and using force if necessary enter any house, store or place in the said warrant mentioned and search for such arms.

Power of Magistrate to issue warrant to search for arms.

13. A Magistrate may by warrant authorise any person named in such warrant to search in any houses, buildings, ships, vessels or places for any arms suspected to be therein in contravention of this Ordinance.

Magistrate may issue warrant for search of arms. [Ibid. altered.]

The person so named in such warrant with such constables and other persons as he calls to his assistance, may at any time enter into any house, building, ship, vessel or place and there execute the warrant, and in case admittance is refused or is not obtained within a reasonable time after it is first demanded, such persons may enter by force in order to execute such warrant. The person executing such warrant shall before executing the same if so desired produce the said warrant.

Any arms, carried, had or found under circumstances which contravene this Ordinance, may be forthwith seized and shall be forfeited to Her Majesty.

Arms found or carried to be forfeited.

14. The Governor may establish a central store or magazine for the safe keeping and storing of all arms and ammunitions, and shall give notice in the *Government Gazette* of such selection and of the situation of the said store or magazine.

Governor may establish central store for arms, &c.

15. It shall be lawful for the Governor in Council during the continuance of any Proclamation issued under the provisions of *The Peace Preservation Ordinance* of 1886, to order the removal to the said central store of all arms in the possession of any importers or dealers in arms, or of such arms only as in the opinion of the said Governor in Council are not in safe keeping or custody. All orders made under this section shall forthwith be published in the *Government Gazette*.

Governor may order removal to central store of all arms.

16. Any person refusing after the publication of such order to deliver up any arms, the removal of which to the said central store shall have been ordered by Section 15 of this Ordinance, shall on conviction before a Magistrate be liable to a fine not exceeding five hundred dollars, or to imprisonment for any period not exceeding six months with or without hard labour.

Penalty for refusing to deliver up arms.

17. The Governor in Council may from time to time make and when made, revoke, alter or add to all rules or regulations necessary for carrying out this Ordinance.

Power of Gov. to make rules.

18. The following Ordinances are hereby repealed:—

Repeals.

Ordinance 14 of 1845, Section 12.

Ordinance 14 of 1870, Section 18.

Ordinance 8 of 1879, Section 37 Sub-section 10.